

## Message Text

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46

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 NEA-11 IO-14 AID-20 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 OMB-01 PC-04 DRC-01

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R 251551Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7109  
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN  
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA  
AMEMBASSY ANKARA  
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN  
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AMEMBASSY LAGOS  
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA  
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI  
AMEMBASSY OSLO  
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM  
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

UNCLAS HELSINKI 0174

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, FI, ET, KE, TZ, ZA, NI, IV, SG, PU, MZ

SUBJ: SURGE OF FINNISH INTEREST IN AFRICA

HIGHLIGHTED BY FONMIN TRIP TO EAST AFRICA

REF: (A) HELSINKI 2098 (NOTAL); (B) HELSINKI 2299 (NOTAL)

BEGIN SUMMARY: FINNISH FOREIGN MINISTER AHTI  
KARJALAINEN'S RESCHEDULED TRIP TO EAST AFRICA IN EARLY  
FEBRUARY COMES AT A TIME WHEN AFRICAN ISSUES ARE  
EXPERIENCING A SURGE OF ATTENTION. PRESIDENT KEKKONEN'S  
SPEECH LAST WEEK REFERRING TO FINLAND'S NEW POLICY OF  
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ASSISTING LIBERATION MOVEMENTS WILL BE GIVEN FURTHER  
SUBSTANCE BY THE SCHEDULED MEETING OF THE KARJALAINEN

PARTY WITH FRELIMO REPRESENTATIVES AND CONTACTS WITH THE PAIGC BY A SEPARATE FINNISH PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION CURRENTLY VISITING WEST AFRICA. END SUMMARY.

1. FINNISH FOREIGN MINISTER AHTI KARJALAINEN WILL VISIT ETHIOPIA, KENYA, TANZANIA AND ZAMBIA BETWEEN FEBRUARY 2 AND 18. ON HIS WAY SOUTH HE WILL STOP FOR LUNCH WITH TURKISH OFFICIALS IN ISTANBUL. KARJALAINEN WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY FOUR FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS: AMBASSADOR AKE WIHTOL, DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION; DR. KEIJO KORHONEN, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF POLITICAL AFFAIRS; RISTO RANNALI, CURRENTLY WORKING IN THE ECONOMIC AREA BUT INCLUDED FOR HIS EXPERIENCE AT THE FINNISH EMBASSY IN ADDIS (1969-71); AND KARJALAINEN'S POLITICAL SECRETARY, JUKKA JUUSELA. KARJALAINEN WILL MEET WITH THE CHIEF-OF-STATE IN EACH COUNTRY AS WELL AS WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTERS AND OTHER OFFICIALS. IT IS THE FIRST VISIT BY ANY FINNISH CABINET MEMBER TO SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA. SIDE TRIPS ARE ALSO PLANNED IN EACH COUNTRY: TO A MISSIONARY STATION IN ETHIOPIA, TO A NORDIC-SUPPORTED COOPERATIVE AS WELL AS A NATURE PRESERVE IN KENYA, TO A NATIONAL PARK IN TANZANIA AND TO VICTORIA FALLS IN ZAMBIA. KARJALAINEN WILL TRAVEL BY PRIVATE AIRCRAFT.

2. KARJALAINEN'S TRIP WAS ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED TO TAKE PLACE IN SEPTEMBER 1973 BUT WAS POSTPONED FOR REASONS OF DOMESTIC POLITICS (REFTELS). NIGERIA WAS DROPPED FROM THE EARLIER ITINERARY TO SHORTEN THE TRIP AND ALSO BECAUSE A FINNISH PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION IS VISITING THERE THIS MONTH ON A TOUR OF WEST AFRICA.

3. THE MOTIVATIONS FOR KARJALAINEN'S TRAVELS REPORTED IN REFTEL A CONTINUE TO APPLY. IN RECENT WEEKS, HOWEVER, THE PUBLIC ATTENTION PAID TO PORTUGUESE AFRICA HAS INTENSIFIED. KARJALAINEN WANTS TO BE SEEN IN THE FOREFRONT OF FINLAND'S POLICY OF "ACTIVE NEUTRALITY", ONE FACET OF WHICH WAS REEMPHASIZED IN PRESIDENT KEKKONEN'S LATEST SPEECH REFERRING TO FINLAND'S "NEW UNCLASSIFIED UNCLASSIFIED

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POLICY" OF ASSISTING NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENTS (HELSINKI A). THE RECENT VISIT HERE OF SENEGALESE MINISTER OF EDUCATION CAMARA SEEKING TO PROMOTE NORDIC PRESSURE ON PORTUGAL WAS ANOTHER SPUR TO GREATER INTEREST IN THE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS. KARJALAINEN'S PLANNED MEETING WITH FRELIMO IN DAR-ES-SALAAM IS ALSO PARTLY AN EXERCISE IN KEEPING UP WITH THE JONESES. HIS MAJOR PARTNERS IN THE COALITION GOVERNMENT, THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS HAVE RECENTLY RENEWED THEIR CALL FOR RECOGNITION OF PORTUGUESE GUINEA AND THE MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT'S

FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE CURRENTLY IN WEST AFRICA  
ANNOUNCED BEFORE DEPARTURE THAT THEY WOULD BE MEETING  
PAIGC REPRESENTATIVES.

4. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH RESPONSIBLE FINNS RECOGNIZE THE  
LEGAL PROBLEMS INVOLVED IN RECOGNITION OF PORTUGUESE  
GUINEA WE DETECT THE PRESSURE MOUNTING AND WOULD NOT  
BE SURPRISED IF THE FINNS FIND A RATIONALIZATION FOR  
RECOGNITION IN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS, PERHAPS EVEN AHEAD  
OF THEIR SCANDINAVIAN BRETHREN DESPITE THEIR PROFESSED  
INTENTION TO KEEP IN STEP WITH THE OTHER NORDICS.  
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## Message Attributes

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